

**REMARKS****Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-19 have been allowed.

Claims 20-22 have been rejected on the basis that they are an improper broadening of the claimed subject matter in that they recapture what was previously argued as being a patentable limitation, namely “the support means being movable relative to the face.”

**The Amendment to Claim 18:**

The Amendment to allowed Claim 18 changes the word “said” to “side” and is for the purpose of correcting an obvious typographical error. It is not intended to alter the scope of the claim and should in no way affect its allowability. Fig. 3 shows the face section FS with one side facing the fill 36 of the earthen formation.

**The Cancellation of Claim 20:**

Claim 20, one of the claims under rejection, has been cancelled. Accordingly, this claim is no longer an issue.

**The Amendments to Claims 21 and 22:**

Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to define the support means as “being movable relative to the face.” Since it was the absence of this language that formed the basis of the Examiner’s rejection of the claims as having been improperly broadened, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are now clearly allowable.

Support for claims 21 and 22 is found in Fig. 5, wherein floor sections FF of first and second welded wire soil reinforcing mats SM are shown in horizontally spaced relationship and a face section FS is secured to and extends forwardly from the floor section FF of the lower soil reinforcing mat toward the floor section FF of the upper soil reinforcing mat. As there shown, support means in the form of a backing mat BM is

carried by the face section FS secured to the floor section FF of the lower mat SM, for supporting engagement with the floor section FF of the upper soil reinforcing mat SM. The backing mat BM is movable relative to the face section FS to permit the floor section FF of the upper mat SM to move vertically relative to the lower mat SM, to accommodate settling of the earthen formation, without bulging of the face section FS.

**Summary:**

The Amendment to Claim 18 is for purposes of correcting an obvious typographical error and should in no way affect its previous allowance.

The Amendments to Claims 21 and 22 insert the missing language upon which the Examiner based his rejection that the claims were an improper broadening of the claimed subject matter of the original patent. Accordingly, as amended, these claims clearly obviate the rejection.

**Conclusion:**

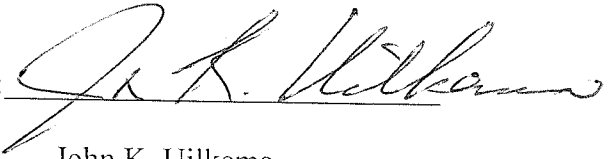
It is believed that this Amendment and Response clearly places the application in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned Attorney.

Please charge any additional required fee, or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited, to the deposit account of Applicant's Attorneys: 04-0822.

Respectfully submitted,

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